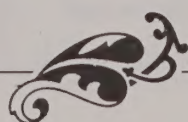




*A HISTORY
&
WALKING TOUR
OF
WEST STREET,
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS*



\$1.00

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Prepared by Gregory Farmer for the Hadley Historical Commission, Hadley, Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Photographs by John Clough.

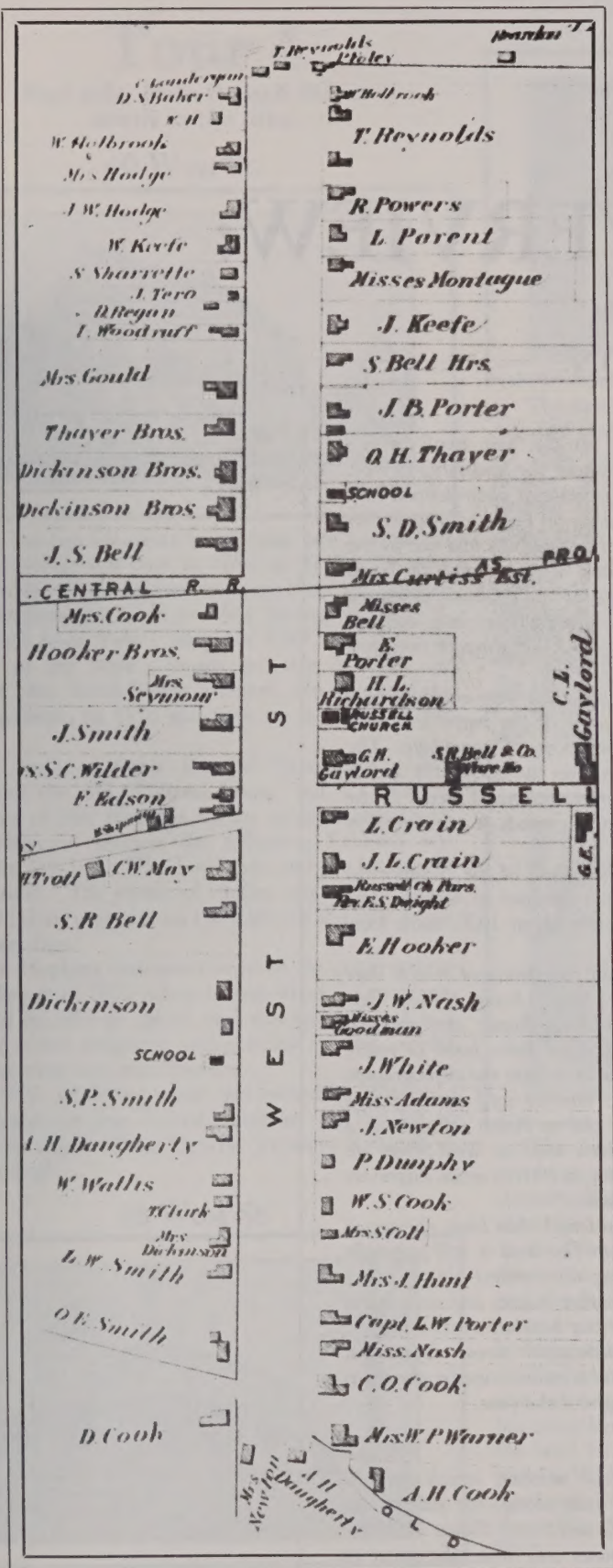
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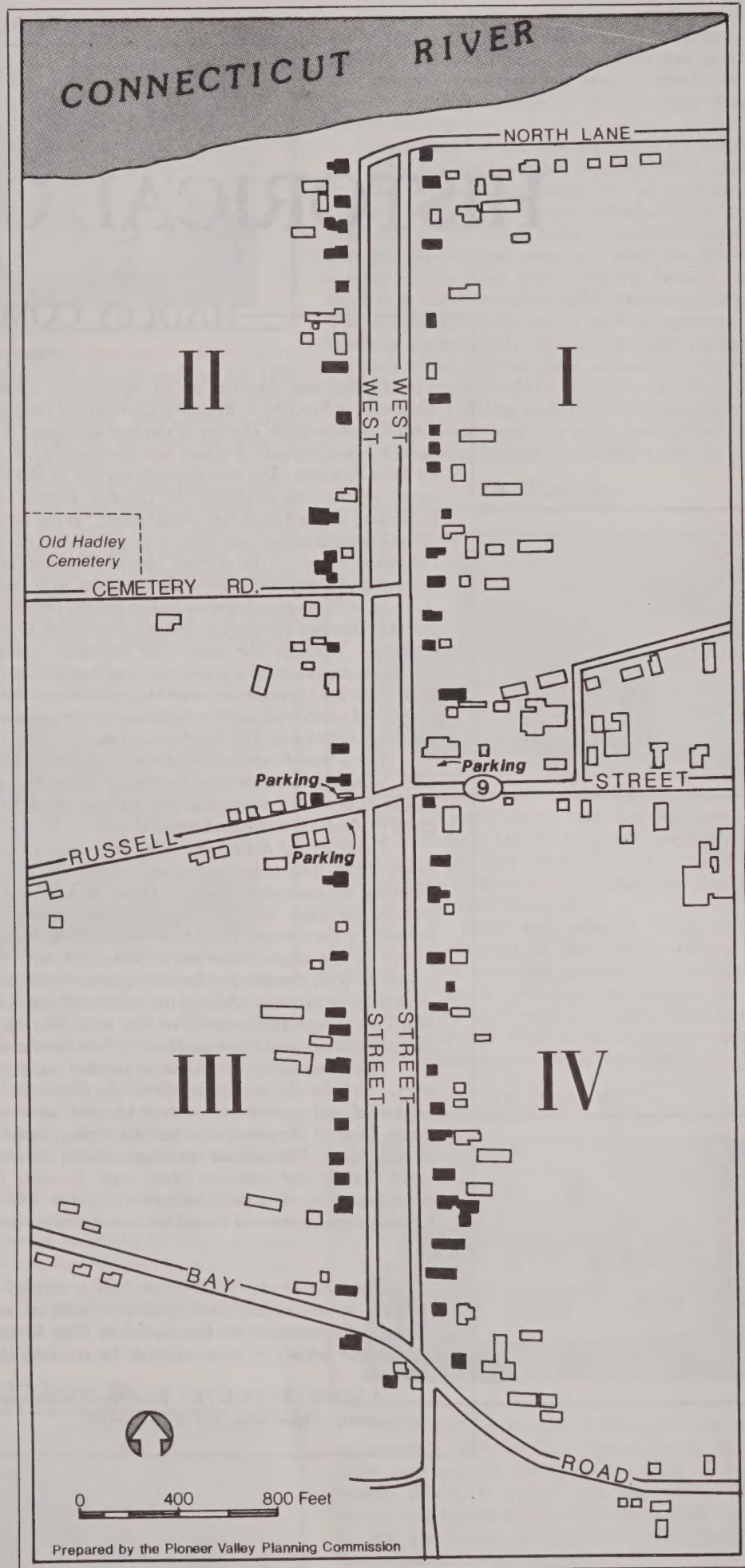
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Cover: View of West St. looking south.



Above: Map of West Street looking south as it appeared in 1873.

Right: West Street today. Use this map as your guide for the tour. The darkened areas indicate houses included on the tour.



HISTORICAL OVERVIEW:

HADLEY COMMON

Hadley was founded as an agricultural community on the east bank of the Connecticut River by a dissenting Connecticut congregation under the leadership of Rev. John Russell in 1659. The site of the new settlement, a fertile peninsular plain defined by a bend in the Connecticut River, was purchased from the Indians on behalf of the settlers by John Pynchon. The area formerly known as Norwottuck Meadow was laid out as the center of the new settlement by the first settlers before their arrival, with the Town Common, referred to as "the broad street," as the central feature. The common measured 20 rods wide and one mile long, with the Connecticut River defining both ends, and was reportedly based on the original plan of Wethersfield, Connecticut. Eight-acre homelots were ranged along both sides of the common, with farmlands behind.

In 1675, to guard against Indian attack, the street and common were enclosed by a palisade that ran far enough behind the houses to include most of the barns and farm buildings. Through the years, the common remained the focus of town life. The meetinghouse occupied a prominent site, animals were pastured on the open land, militia drills were held periodically, and Hadley's Liberty Pole was erected there. Taverns at the north and south ends and at the center of the common served the needs of passengers on the ferry, stagecoach, and riverboat routes.

The Massachusetts Central Railroad crossed the northern half of the common in 1887, providing a faster way for Hadley farmers to ship their produce to market. The Connecticut Valley Street Railway, laid out along Russell Street about 1900, made local travel to Amherst and Northampton easier.

There are 67 houses on West Street today, more than two-thirds of which date before 1850. The oldest surviving structure is the Samuel Porter house (1713). Fine examples of Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic, Queen Anne, and modern architecture stand on their original sites along the street. Many have been privately restored by the owners. The history of the West Street properties reflects the demographic history of the entire community. Many old New England families sold their ancient homes to Irish families in the 19th century, who in turn sold to Polish immigrants a generation or two later. Among the prominent persons who have lived on West Street are Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker of Civil War fame; Elbridge Kingsley, a 19th c. artist, engraver, and antiquarian; and Clarence Hawkes, "the blind poet of Hadley."

The common today retains its original width, but the length has been shortened several rods by the erosive action of the Connecticut River. The area is still primarily residential and agricultural, with fields and barns stretching out behind almost every house. Most of the stately elm trees have disappeared, but mature maples and oaks stand in their place. The railroad no longer crosses the common, but Massachusetts Route 9, which bisects the common from west to east, has encouraged some commercial development on the approaches to the common. The common is maintained by the town highway department and is used for community events throughout the year.

* * * * *

The tour of the West Street area is divided into four sections, which may be followed in any order. Each involves a walk of one half mile along one side of the common, beginning at the intersection of West Street and Russell Street (Route 9). Please respect the privacy of local residents by enjoying their houses only from the street or sidewalk.

A NOTE ON TRAFFIC: West Street is laid out for two-way traffic on both sides of the common. Please walk and drive carefully.

Tour 1:

East side, from Russell Street
north to the dike.

40 West St.



The five-bay Georgian farmhouse, now covered by modern siding, was built in 1766 by the Rev. Samuel Hopkins to replace an earlier house that had burned. Rev. Hopkins was born in West Springfield in 1729, graduated from Yale College in 1749, and came to Hadley as the town's fourth minister in 1755. He married Mrs. Sarah Porter Williams, the widow of the third minister, in 1756 and took up residence in her house.

An early morning fire on March 21, 1766, destroyed the old Williams house, but all fourteen members of the Hopkins family escaped unharmed. Rev. Hopkins' sermon the following Sabbath was based on Job 1:21, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away." The people of Hadley came to the aid of Rev. Hopkins and erected the frame of the new house in eleven days.

Rev. Hopkins continued to serve the congregation of Hadley until 1809, when he was struck by paralysis. He died in 1811 at age 81 and was remembered as a man of sound judgment and practical wisdom, whose sermons were slow and drawing.

In 1882, while the house was owned by Horace L. Richardson, it was shifted southeast on the lot to allow the tracks of the Central Vermont Railroad to pass through.

38 West St.



This stylish adaptation of a traditional farmhouse was built in 1842 by Dudley Smith at the time of his marriage to Pamela Porter. Pamela had received the land from her father, Samuel.

The house retains the basic five-bay, side-gabled plan of most early farmhouses, but includes such fashionable Greek Revival characteristics as corner pilasters, a broad entablature under the eaves and pediment, and a classical entrance portico. The two bay windows and long porch reveal a love of asymmetry and a new appreciation of nature during the Victorian era.

The house was moved a few feet north in 1882, while it was owned by J. Edwards Porter, to allow for passage of the railroad tracks.

36 West St.



The five-bay, side-gabled farmhouse was the housing type most favored in Hadley throughout the 1750 to 1850 period. The rectangular plan, symmetrical facade, and classical entrance were derived from English Georgian architecture and can be seen in many other West Street houses.

This house was built about 1821 for Reuben Bell, a doctor, on land acquired from Elisha Hubbard. Bell died in 1853, leaving the house to his wife Alethea (Smith) and six children. The house was sold by Bell descendants to Martin Lesko in 1923 and remained in the Lesko family until 1981.

When the house was restored in 1982, the "coffin door" which led directly into the parlor was removed.

34 West St.



The Nathaniel Coolidge house is Hadley's only surviving example of a Federal side-hall plan. When completed in 1822, it was one of the first houses to place the main entrance in the gable end, rather than on the long side of the house. The elliptical patera in the gable, the two-story pilasters across the facade, and the fanlight over the door marked a radical and relatively sophisticated departure from traditional building styles.

Nathaniel Coolidge was a "house merchant" who also ran a store just south of his residence. (The store has since been moved to #68 West St.) He purchased the land for this house in 1815 and began construction in 1817. He died about 1836 and the house was purchased by Rev. Joseph Curtis and his wife, Lois Porter. In 1913 it was sold to Frank and Veronica Slaby.

32 West St.



This Victorian interpretation of a traditional farmhouse was built by Samuel Smith on land acquired in 1865 from John Hubbard. The symmetrical floor plan of a colonial farmhouse has been retained, but the exterior detailing reveals a 19th century love of texture and contrast.

The primary and secondary gables of the house are set off by scalloped wooden shingles which contrast with the horizontal clapboards and accent boards of the lower stories. The narrow, paired windows on the west side of the house offer a variation from the standard two-over-two windows, while the three-part window in the west gable and the browed oculus window in the south gable add further visual interest. The double porch decorated with spindlework and braces is a particularly light and graceful example of the style. The original paint scheme of the house would have emphasized the decorative details.

The small building with the keystone arch at the rear of the house was originally part of the Elisha Porter house, which was built on this site in 1715.

28 West St.



The small residence set back from the street was built in 1850 as the District 1 schoolhouse, serving the northern half of West Street. Districts 1 and 2 were consolidated in 1884 and this building continued to be used for classes until about 1935.

The wide eaves and exposed rafters on the building are elements of the Gothic Revival style popular in the mid-19th century. The building is symmetrical in plan, with separate entrances for boys and girls on the north and south sides. The District 2 schoolhouse at #66 West St. (now greatly modified) originally looked very similar to this building.

26 West St.



The Samuel Porter house is Hadley's oldest surviving structure, built in 1713. Samuel Porter, Sr. (died 1689), was one of the original settlers of Hadley. Samuel Porter, Jr. (1660-1722), the builder of this house, was reportedly the first white child born in Hadley. He became an influential trader and served the community as a judge and sheriff.

The massive central chimney, the low eaves, and the hewn second-story overhang with carved corner posts are characteristic of early colonial houses in New England. The elaborate entrance with raised pilasters, a scrolled pediment, and double-leaf doors is of a type that was popular in the Connecticut Valley during the

18th century. It was probably added to the house by Eleazer Porter about 1761 and is peculiarly adapted to fit the overhang.

Court sessions may have been held in the house, since members of the Porter family held the position of Justice of the Peace from the 1660s to 1855. The house left the Porter family in 1868, when it was sold to Oliver Thayer, a stagecoach driver.

24 West St.



The general store established by Samuel Porter, Sr., on this site in 1659 was operated continuously by his family until 1880. James B. Porter, who ran the store from 1825 to 1863, was probably responsible for the present building. William P. Porter, James' son, took over the store in 1863 and maintained it until 1880, when he moved to Springfield. Groceries, dry goods, and pharmaceuticals were the major stock of the store in the 19th century.

The store itself, situated between the two Porter houses, is one of the few early commercial buildings to survive in Hadley. The square plan and low hip roof distinguish the store from adjacent residences. The prominent corner pilasters and the wide double entablature under the eaves are clear elements of the Greek Revival style that was particularly favored by Hadley merchants and entrepreneurs in the 1830s and '40s.

22 West St.



Dr. William Porter built his house in 1789, on land that his father Eleazer had acquired in 1762. William and his recent bride, Lois Eastman, occupied the new house, but did not obtain title to the land until after Eleazer's death in 1797. The practice of allowing children to build houses on land owned by their parents was a common means of exercising parental control in the 18th and 19th centuries. It also encouraged a sense of responsibility for the farmland and commercial interests of the extended family.

William's house followed the traditional five-bay, side-gabled plan, but with the addition of a gambrel roof and dormers that were a clear indication of prosperity and which added greatly to the usable space on the third floor. The entrance with raised pilasters and a double-leaf door is another example of the 18th century Connecticut Valley doorway. It is similar in detailing to the doorway that Eleazer added to the Samuel Porter house (#26 West St.), but with a flat-topped cornice.

18 West St.

John Keefe built the substantial farmhouse on this site in 1880, possibly incorporating part of an earlier

residence that had been owned by Southworth Matthews and Daniel Cook before him. The house exhibits a variety of stylistic features from the middle and late 19th century.



The front-gabled, side-hall plan of the house, the diminutive fanlight in the gable, and the sidelights flanking the door are typical characteristics of the Greek Revival style which was popular in Hadley from 1840 to 1880. The pairs of scrolled eave brackets relate to the Italianate style of the 1860s. The long, L-shaped porch with classical columns may have been added in the 1890s.

12 West St.



This impressive Greek Revival structure was built for William Shipman at the northwest corner of Russell and Middle streets in 1842. Shipman's wife, Catherine Gaylord, had acquired the land from her father, Israel. Catherine's brother, Edward R. Gaylord, may have been the actual builder.

Shipman was a prosperous merchant who ran a store situated west of his home on Russell St. He was also a well-known tobacco farmer and ran a broom shop connected to the house. He served the town as town clerk and treasurer for 25 years and also functioned as Postmaster.

The house demonstrates the integration of sophisticated Greek Revival details with a traditional side-gabled plan. The wide corner pilasters and the double entablature under the eaves are echoed by the pilasters and cornice surrounding the entrance. The bold simplicity of the Greek style was favored by many Hadley merchants in the Middle Street area in the 1840s.

The house was moved to West Street in 1965 to make room for commercial development on Russell Street.

8 West St.



This simple cottage was built for Hannah Hubbard in 1842 on land previously owned by her father, Hezekiah. Hannah retained ownership of the property in her own name until 1851, but taxes on the property were paid by a relative, John H. Jones.

Benjamin Hodge purchased the house from Hannah Hubbard and may have added an ell or a new barn before selling the property to his son, Charles, in 1856.

The wide corner pilasters, the entablature under the eaves, and the recessed sidelights at the entrance present a modest interpretation of the popular Greek Revival style.

4 West St.



The lot on which this house stands was owned by the Smith family from 1731 to 1815. The present structure was probably built for Noah Smith between 1735 and '45 and was later occupied by his son, Wareham. Eliakim Smith, a local cabinetmaker, is known to have worked on the inside of the house while Wareham owned it in 1767.

John Shipman, a local farmer and broom manufacturer, owned the house from about 1820 to 1854. Shipman employed nearly one hundred men in the cultivation of broom corn and the manufacture of brooms and brushes. In 1855, Samuel Hinckley Thayer purchased the property and remodeled the house as the Bull's Head Tavern, which he operated until 1871.

The house is a prime example of the early Georgian style with a symmetrical facade, a massive central chimney, low eaves, and a flat-topped Connecticut Valley doorway. A long ell, probably dating from the tavern years, was removed from the rear of the house about 1918.

2 West St.



Captain Joseph Locke built his graceful, Federal style house at the north end of the common between 1830 and 1836. It was only the second house to occupy the site. In the 1850s it belonged to John Shipman Jr., and then to Samuel Thayer. In 1876 the house was purchased by Thomas McGrath and remained in his family until 1939.

The low hipped roof, the detailing below the eaves, and the unusual fanlight above the door reflect the influence of the Federal style, popular in Hadley between 1790 and 1840. While the basic plan remains that of a traditional Georgian house, the use of decorative motifs derived from Roman prototypes gives Federal-style buildings a lighter and more delicate air.

Tour II:

West side, from Russell Street
north to the dike.

96 Russell St.



The restaurant at the northwest corner of West and Russell streets originally faced the common. It was built as a residence about 1840, but became known as the Cozy Corner Cafe in this century. It was moved farther back on the lot to conform to zoning and parking laws for commercial properties in 1977.

The main part of the building is a typical, front-gabled house in the Greek Revival style. The unusual moldings around the entrance are a loose interpretation of classical Greek motifs. The long ell that now accommodates the restaurant detracts from the sense of balance and stability that was an important element of the classical style.

43 West St.



Oliver Bonney and Noah Edson, two local cabinet-makers, built this substantial Federal style house about 1828. The symmetrical plan and low hipped roof of the house were popular features of the new style. The architectural detailing is clean and simple. The entrance, with its narrow door flanked by slender pilasters and sidelights, projects the quiet dignity typical of the style.

Bonney served twice as a town selectman and twice as a deputy or representative to the state Legislature in the 1830s. He obtained full title to the property in 1839 and it remained in his family until sold by his heirs to Francis Edson in 1869. William Reardon and William J. Reardon acquired the property in 1896.

41 West St.



The cross-gabled roof and asymmetrical plan of the Queen Anne style are elements not often found on homes along West Street. This eclectic style was popularized by architectural magazines and made affordable by the use of pre-cut decorative details. While the contrasting textures typical of the style have been covered by siding, the scale and character of the house reveal late 19th century date.

The massive gables rest on a complex arrangement of forms, with the canted front corner of the house marking a rejection of common rectangular plans. The projecting bay and secondary gable on the south side hint at the irregular interior arrangement. The large upper and lower porches have both been enclosed, but originally served as key elements in the decorative scheme of the house.

35 West St.



Benjamin Hooker, a successful farmer, purchased a newly-built farmhouse from Noah Edson and Oliver Bonney, in 1823. The flush-boarded gable end, the wide entablature under the eaves, and the large corner pilasters were elements of the Greek Revival style that was gaining popularity. The bay windows and the projecting door hood supported by massive brackets were probably added by the Hooker family after 1850.

Charles W. Smith and Burton Cogswell acquired the property in 1897 and used the land to raise tobacco. From 1901 to 1905, Allen L. Carpenter occupied the house, raising tobacco on the halves with Smith and Cogswell as partial payment. John and Katie Slaby purchased the property in 1909. They sold it to Sobestyan and Agnes Wiater in 1921.

Cemetery Road:

Old Hadley Cemetery

The burial ground was established on the meadow plain west of "the broad street" as early as 1661. It originally consisted of two ridges and a valley between, but additional land was added on the east side in 1792 and 1828. The cemetery now encompasses more than four acres.

The western portion of the cemetery contains more than 300 pre-1830 stones, including a number of 17th and 18th c. carved sandstone markers. There are five table stones, as well as several slate and marble stones.

A stroll through the old cemetery provides an overview of Hadley history. The names of the old families are easily recognized and one can gain a sense of intermarriage and interdependency within the community. Family size, average lifespan, and unusual causes of death are also revealed by the stones. Many people delight in the unusual names and quaint epitaphs found on the grave markers. Others enjoy the changing styles of mortuary art, from angels and cherubs, to the "grim reaper" with hourglass and scythe, to willows and urns.

29 West St.



Reuben Bell, a doctor who lived on the other side of the common (36 West St.), built this house for his oldest son, John S. Bell, in 1829. The Horace Seymour blacksmith shop that had formerly occupied the lot was removed to make room for the house. John moved into the house soon after completion, but did not receive title to the property from his father until 1839. It remained in the Bell family until sold to Michael and Anna Karakula in 1911.

Architecturally, the house presents two facades. Viewed from the south, the building is a traditional side-gabled, symmetrical farmhouse. Viewed from the east, the house is a stylish Greek Revival residence with a flush-boarded gable and a recessed side-hall entrance.

25 West St.



Daniel Dickinson, a cordwainer or shoemaker who also ran a tannery on West St., built this large house about 1777. It was later occupied by his son and daughter-in-law Sylvanus and Harriet (Cook), and by his four grandsons, known as the Dickinson Brothers. A two-story shoe shop on the property provided workspace for Daniel Dickinson, his sons, and apprentices. Dr. Josiah Goodhue, who married Daniel's daughter Sophia, kept his office, where he also trained medical students, on the second floor of the ell.

Eliakim Smith, a Hadley woodworker, worked on the interior of the house in 1779 and 1792. The house formerly had a long ell which housed the well and several carriage sheds. The kitchen was in the lower floor of the ell and food was carried to the dining room on a dumbwaiter.

Hooker Monument

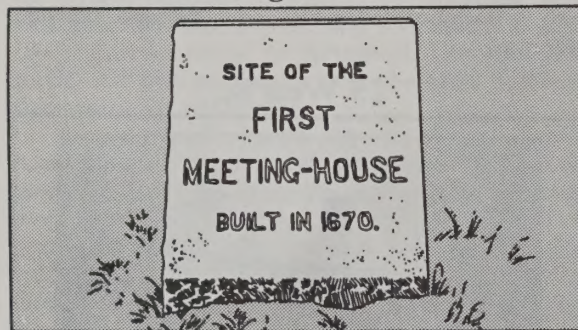


In front of #23 West St., is a large boulder marking the birthplace of Gen. Joseph Hooker, a Civil War hero who is depicted on the Hadley Town Seal. Hooker was born in 1814 in an old gambrel-roofed mansion on this site. He attended Hopkins Academy and West Point Military Academy and served in the Second Seminole War of 1835-43 and the Mexican War of 1846-47. He resigned from the Army in 1853 to take up farming in California, but re-entered the service at the start of the Civil War.

In 1862, Hooker became commander of the Third Army Corps, Second Division, and earned the rank of Major General (and the nickname "Fighting Joe Hooker") during the Seven Days Battle. In 1863, he became commander of the Army of the Potomac, but was defeated at Chancellorsville. Hooker retired from the Army in 1878 and died on Long Island in 1879.

The Third Army Corps Union held their annual reunion in Hadley in 1895 and placed a commemorative tablet on the old Hooker house. The house was destroyed in 1898 by a fire which started on an adjacent property and the present stone monument was erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1908. The new elementary school erected on Middle Street in 1921 was named the Hooker School, in honor of Hadley's military hero.

First Meetinghouse Marker



In the center of the West Street common, just east of the Hooker Monument, stands a granite tablet marking the site of Hadley's first meetinghouse, erected in 1670. The meetinghouse site on the northern half of the common was chosen for the convenience of settlers in the Capawonk area of Hadley (now Hatfield), who crossed the Connecticut River by ferry in order to attend services. A natural pond behind the meetinghouse provided water for horses. The prominent location of the meetinghouse emphasized the central role of the church in the early years of the community.

The second meetinghouse replaced the first on roughly the same site c. 1713. A steeple was added to that building in 1753, with a weathercock that survives atop the third meetinghouse on Middle Street. The third meetinghouse itself was built on the common in 1808, but moved in 1841 to the new town center on Middle Street, where it remains today.

21 West St.



The lot on which this house stands was formerly occupied by the home of Azariah Dickinson. When Joseph Mimitz purchased the property in 1888, the house was in such disrepair that the wind could blow

right through. In 1898, the outbuildings and sheds were burned by the fire that destroyed the General Hooker house next door. Mimitz tore down the old house and built the present structure himself, one half at a time, between 1901 and 1909. When completed, the new house was assessed at five times the value of the old homestead.

For several years after 1905 a cider mill and a shop also occupied the property. The house remained in the Mimitz family until 1964.

17 West Street



This brick cottage was built in 1831 by David William Cook, a house mason, on a quarter-acre lot purchased from David White Cook. Since the lot is so small, the property has typically been owned by craftsmen and merchants, rather than farmers. The house passed through several owners before being purchased by Isaac Woodruff, who occupied it from 1846 to 1878. Thomas Hannigan bought the property from Woodruff and it became part of Hannigan's estate in 1913. Subsequent owners have included members of the Kowalski, Borlikoski, and Blyda families.

The plan and construction of the house are very traditional, but the striking Gothic windows and the several chimneys which formerly accented the roofline are based on romantic "cottage" designs of the mid-19th century. The interior features 10 x 10" timbers in the attic and an exposed chimney brick with the incised date of 1789, perhaps indicating that old materials were used in erecting the house.

9 West St.



This attractive Queen Anne style house was built by William O'Donnell in 1896 to replace an earlier house that had burned in August of that year. Houses in the Queen Anne style are frequently found in urban communities, but are fairly rare in Hadley. The diminutive scale and consistent setback of this house help it fit in with the older farmhouses along West Street.

The Queen Anne style differs from traditional Federal and Greek Revival designs by its asymmetrical floor plan, irregular fenestration, contrasting wall textures, and bracketed porch. Technological innovations such as balloon framing, central heating, and pre-sawn decorative millwork permitted greater flexibility in the design and ornamentation of late 19th century houses.

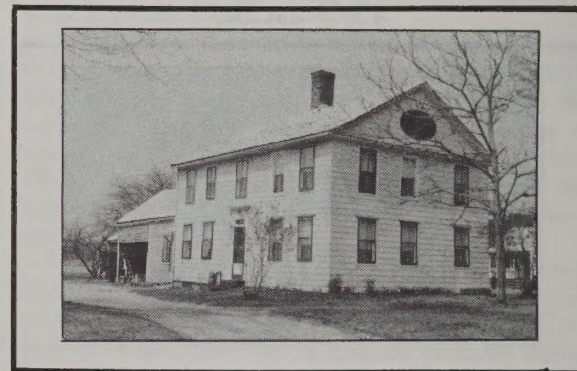
7 West St.



In the late 19th century, local contractors offered prospective homeowners a wide range of house plans and decorative options. Most of the plans were simplified examples of the Queen Anne style, featuring a single ridge roofline, a full porch, and one or more projecting bays. Later alterations on this house have obscured some of the decorative elements, but it retains its late Victorian character.

The persistence of farming in Hadley center provides a sense of history and continuity on West Street. The pattern of land division with long, narrow lots stretching out from the common has survived essentially intact since the 17th century. The clustering of houses along the common creates a feeling of community that could never be achieved by isolated farmsteads.

5 West St.



The rectangular, side-gabled farmhouse was the traditional standard for Hadley houses between 1750 and 1850. Decorative features such as the narrow Federal doorway and the huge patera, or fan, in the gable are evidence that this particular house was built between 1800 and 1830.

This house, like many of the farmhouses on West Street is oriented with the entrance and main facade facing south, to take advantage of the heat and light provided by the sun. In the 18th and 19th centuries, many owners also cultivated small kitchen gardens on the southern half of the house lot which provided herbs and vegetables for household use.

3 West St.



Noah Cook was one of Hadley's most prosperous grain and livestock farmers in the 18th century. When he died in 1796, he left to his son, Andrew, a large estate that included a homelot near the northwest corner of West Street. When Andrew died in 1819, his nephew, Reuben, acquired half interest in the homestead and cider mill, as well as six acres just south of the old house. By 1823, Reuben Cook had erected this modest house on the six acre lot.

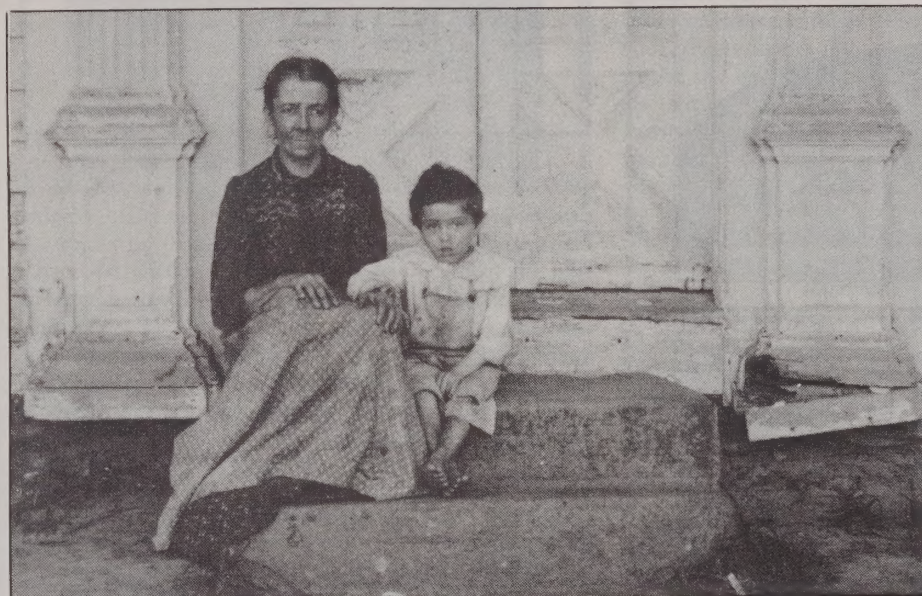
Amariah Holbrook, a farmer and tailor, purchased the property from Cook in 1828 and it remained in the Holbrook family for the next eighty years. In the late 19th century, the two-story facade of the older Cook house was applied to the street side of this house, providing an incongruous false front that was later removed. In the early 20th century, the house was owned by the Jandziski, Szewczyk, and Nycz families. It was purchased in 1938 by Walenty Walczyk of Chicopee, who peddled meat by truck from house to house and established a neighborhood meat and grocery market in the north and west end of this building.

1 West St.



The ferry between Hadley and Hatfield was run from this site throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1795, Andrew Cook purchased the last homelot abutting the river and erected the present house about 1800. Solomon Cook, Andrew's son, ran the house as Cook's Tavern, or the Ferrymen's Hotel. The rowdy raftsmen and rivermen who patronized the tavern were kept in line by Solomon's wife, Tryphena Newton, who would reportedly knock down any man who offended her.

Solomon Cook Jr. married Clarissa Smith and continued operation of the tavern. When Solomon died, Clarissa married the ferryman, Esek Baker. Esek assumed ownership of the property in 1830, but allowed Clarissa to keep the rent and profit from the inn. Jennie H. Thayer took over the inn in 1878. She married Clesson Wood of Leverett, who was a turnkey at the Northampton jail and a boss in Daniel Dickinson's tobacco sorting shop. At that time there was a dance hall on the second floor of the tavern with seats built into the walls, but the front part of the ballroom was later made into bedrooms.



The photos on this page are of residents of old Hadley dating back to the turn of the century.

(Photos compliments of the Hadley Historical Society)



Tour III:

West side, from Russell Street
south to Bay Road.

51 West St.



This is only the second house ever to occupy Plot 8 of Hadley's oldest street. It was built about 1760 for Deacon Jonathan Smith (then age 58) and his second wife, Mehitable Cook (then 49). Smith was a prominent landowner who had helped with major repairs on the meetinghouse in 1753. When he died in 1774, his was one of the largest estates in town.

The house passed to Jonathan's son, Seth (born 1751). When Seth died in 1828, the house was shared by his sons Ephraim and Elijah Smith, who had married two sisters, Ruth and Maria, the daughters of John Smith. Samuel R. Bell, a nephew of Ruth and Maria Smith, acquired the property in 1870 and kept it until 1917. Old-timers still refer to the house as the "Sam Bell place."

In 1916, the house was converted to house Polish immigrants working on Hadley farms. Interior dividers were inserted in the rooms to accommodate several families. The house was restored in the late 1970s and retains its original interior paneling, shutters, twenty-inch floorboards, and "gunstock" corner posts.

57 West St.



The craftsman-style bungalow on the former Dickinson homelot is one of the most distinctive architectural examples on West Street. It was built around 1920 to replace an earlier house on the site and shows the definitive modern break with traditional house forms. The 1½ story plan with a low roof punctuated by a large central dormer was the prototype for urban and suburban housing in the early 20th century. The recessed porch, battered (sloped) columns, and brick piers are common elements of the Craftsman style.

Although this house appeared radically modern when it was built, the siting of the building on the lot follows the pattern established by older West Street homes. The house is set back from the pedestrian way and surrounded by open space and agricultural land. The large barn and the acreage behind the house provide a sense of continuity with the older farmhouses nearby.

61 West St.



The house built for William and Julia Mather in 1909 illustrates the simplified Queen Anne style that was favored by local contractors at the turn of the century. The building sits on a half-acre lot that was split off from a twelve-acre parcel resulting from the joining of two homelots in 1865. The Mathers moved into the house in 1910 and lived there for thirteen years until they sold it in 1923 to Stephen and Josephine Toole, who kept it until 1943.

The square plan of the house and the steep hipped roof were standard features of moderately-priced housing. Similar houses were constructed throughout Hadley and neighboring towns as old homelots were subdivided and family farms sold for residential development.

63 West St.



The site of 63 West St. was acquired by the Town of Hadley in 1851 to build a schoolhouse for District 2, serving the southern half of West Street. In 1884, Districts 1 and 2 were consolidated and the southern schoolhouse was purchased by Charles Cook and moved across the common (see 66 West St.)

The current Queen Anne style house was built in 1914 for Ignac and Anastazyja Szostock. Polish immigrants had begun working on Hadley farms in the 1880s and, within a generation, many were able to afford homes of their own. Although some of the decorative features of this house are obscured by modern siding, the cross-gabled plan, upstairs "sleeping porch," and diamond-paned window accents are unmistakable indications of the early modern style.

67 West St.



This traditional, side-gabled farmhouse was built about 1773 for Elisha Dickinson (born 1752) and his wife, Hannah Billings of Conway. It was erected on a portion of the homelot of Elisha's father, Josiah, and materials from an earlier building may have been utilized in the construction. The Dickinson family ran an extensive farming operation and served as members of the selectboard and the town militia.

The house was inherited by Elisha Dickinson Jr. in 1811. When he died in 1833, it became the property of his widow, Azubah Hammond Dickinson, who married Dr. Philemon Stacey, the town physician. They remained in the house until 1848. The house passed through several owners until it was purchased in 1909 by Andrew and Katarzena Kozera, whose family has owned it for most of this century.

69 West St.



Timothy Eastman (1739-1818) built this house about the time of his second marriage to Ruth Sheldon of Suffield in 1780. The building was originally a traditional, side-gabled, center chimney farmhouse with an open southerly exposure. Eliakim Smith, a Hadley cabinetmaker, worked for Eastman in the 1770s and may have provided some of the interior woodwork for the new house.

Timothy's son, Joseph (born 1788), inherited the house from his father in 1821, soon after his marriage to Susan Sheldon of Suffield. In 1834, Joseph extensively remodeled the house in the Greek Revival style. He replaced the roof, installed a new stair rail and paneled doors, and had the interior woodwork grained. The Greek cresting over the new entrance in the gable end effectively demonstrated Eastman's concession to the popular style.

71 West St.



Like the Eastman house at 69 West St. this building demonstrates the combined influence of several styles. The original, side-gabled farmhouse was built on a low foundation, with a symmetrical facade and a southerly exposure, as were so many others on West Street. The low-pitched triangular gable and the small fanlight were common motifs of the Federal style, popular in Hadley from about 1780 to 1840.

The addition of an asymmetrical entrance in the gable end facing the street was a method frequently used to update a house in the Greek Revival style.

during the 1840's and 50's. The large, wheel-shaped brackets that support the door hood on the south side and the two-over-two windows (replacing earlier six-over-six sashes) were probably added in the 1870s. Finally, the application of wide siding over the original clapboards shows the mid-20th century preference for rectangular forms and flat surfaces. Each generation of occupants has left its mark on the character of the house.

73 West St.



While details changed according to prevailing styles, basic house plans remained surprisingly consistent in Hadley throughout the 19th century. Side-gabled farmhouses with symmetrical facades based on Georgian and Federal period prototypes were part of a strong vernacular tradition. The standard floor plan consisted of rooms arranged symmetrically on both sides of a central hall, with additional space provided by an ell attached to the rear or side of the house.

Distinctive characteristics of this particular house are the Federal portico on the center entrance, and the segmented triangular light in the gable end, which suggest a date of about 1820. The narrow window on the second floor above the entrance may date from the 1860s.

75 West St.



Elihu Smith (see 77 West St.) built this very stylish Federal house in 1816 for his son Lorenzo (born 1790). Lorenzo married Hannah Dickinson of Amherst and they had four sons, three of whom died young. In 1827, Lorenzo himself died, but Hannah kept the house until 1836. It was purchased by Leister Porter, a prominent citizen, who kept it until 1858. The Dickinson family then purchased the property and held it until 1905.

Lorenzo Smith's house is one of Hadley's most impressive Federal structures. The low hipped roof and symmetrical facade are found on several other buildings, but the "stone" corner quoins and bold window caps are exceptionally fine details. The small porch with its light braces and rhythmic balusters is an unusually successful blend of Federal and Victorian aesthetics.

77 West St.

The beautiful Queen Anne porches with their asymmetrical design, delicate spindlework, scrolled

brackets, and rhythmic balusters are the elements that command attention on this house. They were added to the building by Leavitt Crosier, who owned the house from 1879 to 1906.



Under the Victorian detail is the substantial house of Elihu Smith (1761 to 1821), built in 1793. It is an impressive Federal structure with double interior chimneys and nicely-detailed cornerboards and eave moldings. A large complex of farm buildings formerly stretched behind the house. When Elihu died, his widow, Lucretia Cook, shared the house with her son Giles and his wife, Martha Hitchcock. Giles obtained full title to the property in 1855.

81 West St.



The scale and arrangement of this house at the corner of West Street and Bay Road indicate a late 19th century date. While the house may appear modest at first glance, it is actually very carefully planned and detailed. Through the use of several Victorian features, the builder added a good deal of visual interest to a standard rectangular plan.

The full porch was originally open, helping to shade the front rooms from the summer sun. The small bay on the south side of the house let more light into what was probably a dining room. The paired windows in the gable, with three vertical panes over a single square sash, are one use of irregular fenestration to complement the scale of the house. The patterned wood shingles in the gable end provide an interesting contrast of color and texture with the clapboards.

83 West St.



The Connecticut River ferry at the south end of West Street was established by Joseph Kellogg in 1675 and operated by his son and grandson until 1758.

When Stephen Goodman married Joanna Kellogg in 1765, he took over operation of the ferry from this site south of Bay Road and built part of the present house, which may have also functioned as an inn. At that time the river ran much closer to the end of West Street and Aqua Vitae meadow was considerably smaller.

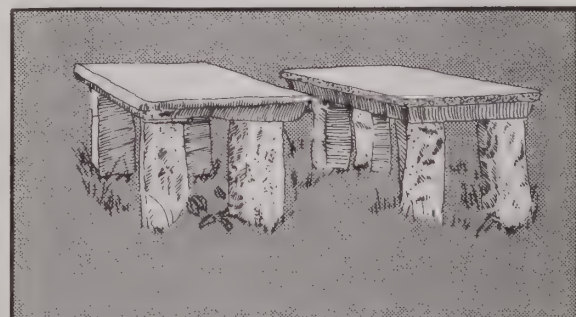
Erastus Smith Jr. acquired the property sometime before his marriage to Polly Dickinson in 1824. He joined two houses together and extensively remodeled them to create a huge Federal residence. The hipped roof, the fanlights over the doors, the dentil molding under the eaves, and the carved classical swags above the windows all date from Smith's renovation. After Erastus died, the property was sold at auction and was purchased by Rev. John Brown, the sixth pastor of the Hadley church. From 1906 to 1944 it was owned by Michael Kowal, who used it to house recent immigrants from Poland.

85 West St.



The Queen Anne house facing the common from the south side of Bay Road is one of the nicest examples of that style in Hadley. Its unusual placement commands a view of the entire one mile length of the common.

The house was built about 1900 in a manner typical of the period. The cross-gabled plan enabled the builder to vary the size and arrangement of rooms while bringing light in from all angles. The L-shaped porch, which was originally open, provided a shady veranda for sitting and visiting while visually reducing the bulk of the house. The variation in texture and color between the clapboards on the lower story and the scalloped wood shingles on the upper story provided a play of light and shadow that was an important part of the Victorian aesthetic. Despite some alterations, the house has managed to preserve its original character.

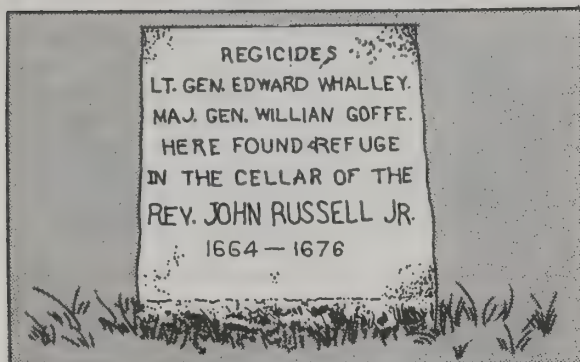


These two table style tombstones are that of the Reverend John Russell and his wife. They are located in the Old Hadley Cemetery on Cemetery Road. For more information on the history of the cemetery refer back to page 4 of the tour.

Tour IV:

East side, from Russell St.
south to Bay Rd.

Regicides Marker



At the northeast corner of Russell and West streets, in the tree belt near a parking area, stands a granite tablet marking the site of the house of Rev. John Russell Jr., Hadley's first minister. John Russell was born in England in 1626 and graduated from Harvard College in 1645. He began preaching in Wethersfield, Connecticut, in 1649 and led some of the members of his congregation to the new settlement of Hadley in 1659 or '60.

Lieutenant General Edward Whalley and his son-in-law, Major General William Goffe, were two of the English judges who condemned Charles I to death in 1649, at the close of the English Civil War. When Charles II restored the monarchy in 1660, the judges were declared criminals and sought refuge in Boston and New Haven before reaching Hadley, where they were hidden safely in the house of Rev. Russell.

Whalley died about 1674. Goffe emerged only briefly from hiding on September 1, 1675 to alert the settlers, who were gathered in the meetinghouse, to an impending attack by the Indians during King Philip's War. Goffe's sudden appearance in the midst of the small community, his strange demeanor, and his courage in leading the settlers against the Indians gave rise to the "Angel of Hadley" legend.

46 West St.



The completion of the Hadley-Northampton bridge (near the present Coolidge Bridge) in 1803 led to the establishment of stagecoach routes along Russell St. and Bay Road. The Lucius Crain tavern, erected in 1840, is prominently situated where one of the stage routes crossed the common. The building's function as an inn for travelers is made plain by the two major entrances on the west and north sides and by the proximity of the building to the road. The tavern was well-known for its spring dance floor upstairs.

The building follows the traditional, rectangular plan of many farmhouses and taverns in Hadley. The corner pilasters and the wide entablature under the eaves are Greek Revival features that were used frequently by local builders, but the intricate network surrounding the entrance is an unusual design.

50 West St.



The low-pitched roof and side hall plan of this modest house are typical features of mid-19th century residential architecture. The house originally stood on the northeast side of West Street, but was moved in the 1870s when the route of the Massachusetts Central Railroad was laid out.

Around 1900, this was the home of Rev. E. S. Dwight, the last pastor of the Russell Church, which formerly stood near the northeast corner of West and Russell Streets. The Russell Church had been established in 1841 by West St. residents who objected to the moving of the First Congregational Church to its new Middle St. location. The Russell Church disbanded around 1914 and sold the old church to the newly-formed Holy Rosary Parish in Hadley.

In this century, the house was the home of Dr. Clarence Hawkes (1869-1954), a writer and naturalist known as "the blind poet of Hadley." He lost a leg at age 10 and his eyesight at age 14, but graduated from high school and lectured on the Chautauqua circuit. He wrote 100 books and thousands of poems and essays, attributing his success to "the three P's — Patience, Pluck, and Perseverance."

52 West St.



This impressive farmhouse was built about 1770 by Capt. Moses Marsh, a veteran of the French and Indian War who represented Hadley in the colonial legislature and served two terms as a town selectman. He and his wife, Hannah Cook, had occupied an earlier house on the same site in which they had raised their nine children. After the Revolution, Marsh moved to Worthington, where he died in 1796 at age 78. The house was later occupied by members of the Porter, Hooker, Bliss, and Dickinson families.

The broad, symmetrical facade, the double interior chimneys, and the wide, side-lighted entrance mark this as the house of a prosperous and well-to-do family. The windows were originally hung with a double twelve-over-twelve sash, but were converted to two-over-two in the 19th century.

56 West St.



Many of Hadley's 19th century houses show an interesting mix of the traditional, side-gabled farmhouse plan with features of Greek, Italianate and later Victorian styles. This house retains the symmetrical facade and southerly exposure that had been the standard for Hadley residences since the early 1700s, but the scale and detailing support a mid-19th century date.

The eave moldings and corner boards of 56 West St. are derived from the wide classical elements of the Greek Revival style, but narrowed to give a lighter feeling. The wrap-around porch supported by square columns provided a sheltered area for family and neighbors to rest and visit, reflecting the benign Victorian view of nature and domesticity.

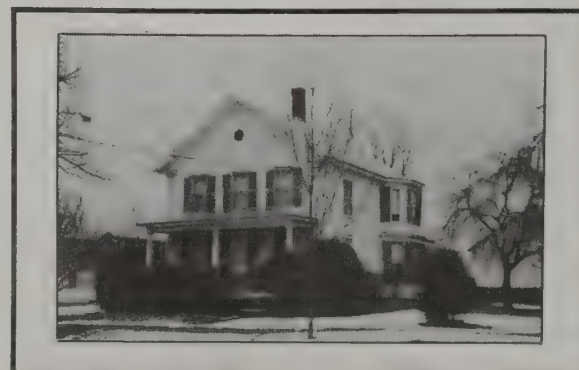
58 West St.



The nicely-scaled house at 58 West St. uses a three-bay facade, rather than the more common five-bay plan. Like 56 West St., this house retains many traditional elements, including the massive central chimney and an open southern exposure. The rhythmic braces and scrolled brackets that adorn the porch are typical of the pre-sawed millwork that became widely available after the invention of the jigsaw in the mid-19th century.

In the late 19th century, many of the West St. houses were occupied by widows and unmarried men who felt a strong obligation to maintain the family homestead. The Goodwin sisters, who lived in this house in the 1970s, were typical of the maiden ladies who helped preserve the older homes.

60 West St.



The introduction of "balloon frame" construction in the mid-19th century encouraged greater flexibility in the arrangement of interior space and the selection of exterior detail. The front-gabled, side hall plan, as illustrated by this house, was introduced in the 1830s and remained the standard "modern" house plan for over 75 years.

The basic rectangular form of the house is relieved by the addition of a full porch across the front and double polygonal bay on the south side. Both the floor-length front windows and the closely-set bay windows bring a flood of natural light into the rooms. The two shuttered false windows on the side preserve the rhythm of the fenestration without jeopardizing the strength of the staircase wall.

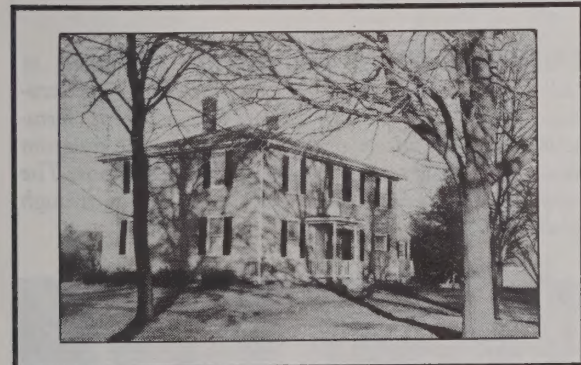
66 West St.



The District 2 schoolhouse, serving the southern half of West St., was built in 1851 on the site of 63 West St. at a cost of \$900. It was built on the same plan as the District 1 school (28 West St.), with broad overhanging eaves and separate entrances for girls and boys.

When Districts 1 and 2 were consolidated in 1884, Charles H. Cook bought the schoolhouse and moved it to his own lot, which had previously been the site of John Newton's tobacco barn and shop. Cook converted the school to a residence by modifying the windows, adding a porch to one entrance, and placing a secondary gable in the roofline. Despite the alterations, the basic plan and appearance of the district school have been preserved.

68 West St.



John Hopkins of Hadley built this impressive building as a general store in 1811, using money inherited from his father. It originally stood near 34 West St. and was purchased in 1814 by Nathaniel Coolidge, who built his own residence nearby. In 1836, the store was purchased by Dudley Smith, who operated it until at least 1845.

In 1852, a committee of the Russell Church purchased the building and moved it to the present five-acre lot on the southern half of West St. for use as a rental property. It housed as many as four families at once and was known locally as "the Hive."

The low-hipped roof and double interior chimneys mark this as a sophisticated Federal structure that may have rivalled some of West Street's finest houses.

Despite the application of modern siding and some changes in the fenestration, the house retains the quiet dignity of the Federal style.

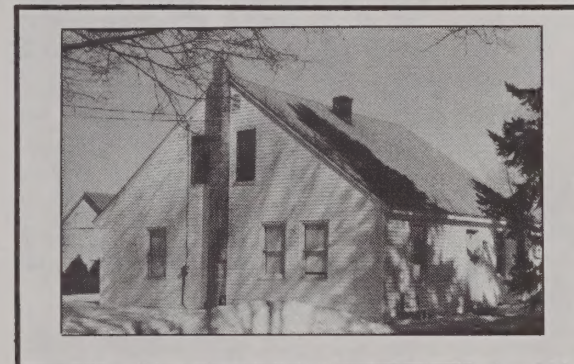
70 West St.



William S. Cook had occupied an earlier house on this site for almost 30 years before erecting the present structure in 1874. Sydenham Cook, William's brother, may have been the actual builder. Although the house dates from the late 19th century, it preserves the rectangular form and symmetrical facade commonly seen in farmhouses 100 years older. Local tradition states that the Cooks were very proud of the fact that their new house had central heating, rather than fireplaces.

The very large attic gives the house a Victorian scale that sets it apart from traditional farmhouses. The arched window in the gable end is an Italianate feature that was popular in the 1860s and the flattened arch above the entrance is an unusually late interpretation of a Federal motif.

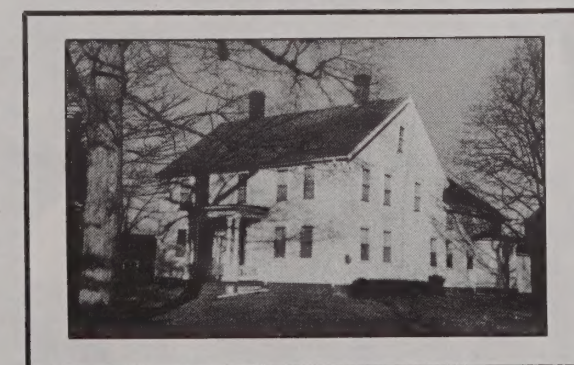
72 West St.



The broad roof and low eaves of this cottage illustrate one of the earliest residential styles on West St. Although the history of the house is uncertain, it was apparently built around 1800.

Rather than imitating stylish English Georgian architecture, the house is derived from vernacular prototypes. It shares with other West St. houses the features of a symmetrical facade and a southerly exposure, but its scale and outline give the impression of a shelter anchored firmly in the earth, rather than an edifice resting on the surface.

74 West St.



This attractive Georgian farmhouse was built about 1770 and first occupied by Jonathan Hall, a potter, who may have shared the house with others. Deacon Timothy Hopkins of West Springfield purchased the house about 1790, when he moved to Hadley. In 1792 he married Rebecca Smith, the daughter of Eliakim Smith, a local cabinetmaker. They raised two sons and two daughters in the house.

In 1828, Hopkins traded houses with his daughter Mehitabel and her husband, John Hunt, a local mason who lived at 78 West St. Hunt replaced the old ell and made many improvements to accommodate his large family. Between 1865 and 1876, the house was raised up and a new foundation was placed under it. The massive central chimney was also removed at that time.

The house remained in the Hunt family until 1901, when the property was sold to Fred E. Jacques of Hadley. Jacques sold the house and 12 acres to Josef and Katie Wanczyk in 1907.

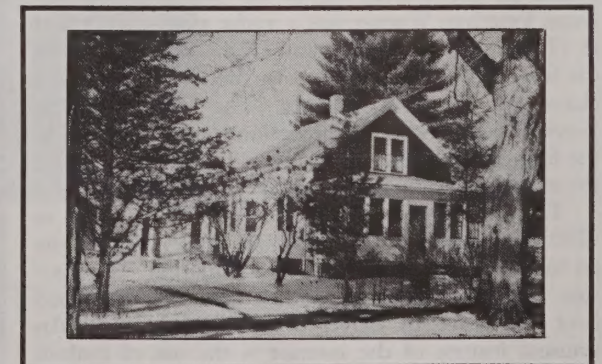
78 West St.



The front part of this house was built by Phinehas Lyman soon after his marriage to Joanna Eastman in 1750. Joanna bore three sons before her death in 1759. Two of the sons later committed suicide by hanging. When Phinehas died in 1792, at age 67, the house and contents were purchased by John Hunt, a mason from West Springfield.

Hunt married Mehitabel Hopkins in 1816 and traded houses with her father, Timothy Hopkins, in 1828 (see 74 West St.). In 1844, Rebecca Smith Hopkins, Timothy's widow, sold his house to Captain John Nash, the proprietor of river boat traffic at the south end of West St. Nash had once been excommunicated from the First Church of Hadley for moving boats after sundown on a Saturday, when they were threatened by the rising river. Nash owned property on the other side of West St. and moved that house, built about 1834, across the common and joined it to the rear of this house. The secondary entrance in the gable end of the old house became the main entrance of the enlarged house.

80 West St.

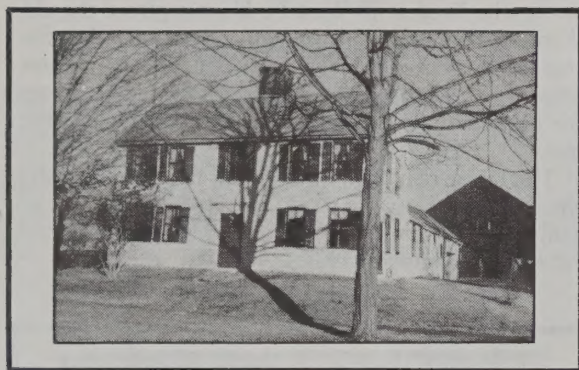


John Hunt, a mason who owned the house at 78 West St., erected this house for Robert Hodge in 1816 on three-eighths of an acre taken from his own home lot. John Nash, who managed river boat traffic at the south end of West St., acquired the mortgage on the

property in 1827 and bought the house outright in 1839. The house was occupied by Robert Hodge's brother, Henry, who had married Nash's daughter, Eliza, in 1823.

The house descended through the Nash family until the death of John Nash's granddaughter, Lephe Nash Clark, in 1902. Since 1911, it has been owned by the family of Frank Punska.

82 West St.



The Cook family, which included some of Hadley's most prosperous farmers and landowners, built this center chimney Georgian house in 1774 and owned it for a full century. Gad Cook, who married Joanna Smith in 1792, ran a blacksmith shop and a tanning mill on the property, in addition to extensive farming operations. The Cooks were heavily involved in the cultivation of broom corn and the manufacture of brooms, which was Hadley's largest commercial enterprise in the first half of the 19th century.

The house descended through Obed Cook and Charles O. Cook until it was sold to James Halpin in 1874. The Halpins were one of the prominent Irish families who acquired many of the older West Street houses in the late 19th century. The Halpin heirs continued to hold the property until 1958.

84 West St.



The home-lot at the south end of West St. was owned by the Warner family for over two hundred years. Jonathan Warner was a trader who was licensed in 1758 to sell tea, coffee, and China. He was one of the few Hadley residents to own both a sleigh and a chaise in the 18th century. The Warner house provided food and accommodations for travelers using the ferry at the south end of West St., or traveling on the stage route now known as Bay Rd.

The rear portion of this house may date as early as 1750. The front portion was built in 1790 and bears an inscribed date in the granite foundation. The door step is an old cemetery marker that formerly stood over the grave of Oliver Warner (died 1850). An unusual feature of the interior is the use of built-in panels that allowed the three upstairs bedrooms to be opened into one large room.



To learn more about the history of Hadley, you may wish to visit one of the three museums in town:

The Hadley Farm Museum at 147 Russell St. (behind Town Hall) is a restored Hadley barn dating from 1782. It exhibits a wide range of farm and farm-related tools, as well as household utensils, vehicles, and broom-making equipment from the 17th through 19th centuries. It is open from May 1 to October, Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 - 4:30 and Sunday, 11:30 - 4:30.

The Hadley Historical Society, on the second floor of the Goodwin library at Russell and Middle Streets, maintains a collection of records and artifacts related to life in Hadley. Talks on historical subjects are presented at the society's monthly meetings. Collections may be viewed during open-house days on summer weekends or by appointment.

The Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum at 130 River Dr. (Route 47), focuses on the 10 generations who have lived in Moses Porter's 1752 farmhouse. In addition to tours of the house, the museum sponsors a variety of programs on folk traditions. The museum is open May 15 to Oct. 15, Saturday through Wednesday, 1:00 - 4:30.





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